

## Purpose

These guidelines are intended to aid long-term care facilities (LTCF) in the identification, reporting, control, and prevention of suspected and confirmed influenza and/or influenza-like illness (ILI) outbreaks.

## Surveillance and Testing

Surveillance and testing are key to identifying potential outbreaks. ILI is defined as a fever ( $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$  [ $37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ], oral or equivalent) AND cough and/or sore throat (without a known cause other than influenza).

- Any resident who has ILI should be tested for influenza despite the time of the year.
- If one resident tests positive for influenza, begin daily active surveillance for respiratory symptoms and ILI among all residents and staff.
- Continue daily active surveillance until one week after the last confirmed influenza case in the facility has occurred and in consultation with the regional health department.

## Criteria for Reporting Influenza/ILI Outbreaks

Guidelines for reporting:

- An influenza outbreak is defined when two cases, who shared the same unit or the same exposure, reported as testing positive for influenza and identified within 72 hours of each other (i.e., resident or staff tests positive for influenza by a lab test such as a rapid influenza test, culture, real-time PCR, DFA, or IFA).

**Please note: Outbreaks should be considered over when no new cases of influenza or ILI have been detected for seven consecutive days. Report a new outbreak if your facility meets the above listed criteria again during the influenza season and a minimum of seven days has passed.**

## What to Report

Provide the following information to the regional health department.

- Facility name and contact
- Facility population (e.g., resident enrollment and number of staff employed)
- Number of total and affected units/wings in facility
- Number of residents and staff who have received the current season's influenza vaccine
- Number of residents and staff with ILI and treatment that has been given, if applicable
- Earliest illness onset date and latest illness onset date
- Number of residents and staff who have tested positive for influenza and the testing method
- Number of residents and staff who are hospitalized
- Mitigation measures already taken
- Promptly report all influenza-associated deaths that occur utilizing the influenza-associated mortality case report form, within 24 hrs by phone














## Subsequent Reporting


Report all ill cases (e.g., residents and staff) utilizing a line list (will be provided by regional health department personnel) weekly or as deemed appropriate.


## How to Report

Contact information for regional health departments can be found at:

[www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/CR-009025.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/CR-009025.pdf)

Completed 	Checklist for Prevention Measures During Influenza Season in Long Term Care Facilities	Resources
Vaccination		
   	Offer the annual age-appropriate influenza vaccine to all residents and staff, unless they cannot receive it for medical reasons.	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination">cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination</a>
	Offer the pneumococcal vaccine to all adults aged 65 and older.	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/toolkit/long-term-care/plan.htm">cdc.gov/flu/toolkit/long-term-care/plan.htm</a>
	Maintain a vaccination log for all residents, staff, and new admissions.	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/toolkit/long-term-care/importance.htm">cdc.gov/flu/toolkit/long-term-care/importance.htm</a>
	Track each resident who cannot receive the vaccine for medical reasons, residents (or their legal representatives) who refuse vaccination, and those who did not receive the vaccine because it was not available because of shortage.	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/index.html">cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/index.html</a> <a href="https://www.scdhec.gov/Agency/RegulationsAndUpdates/LawsAndRegulations/Health/">www.scdhec.gov/Agency/RegulationsAndUpdates/LawsAndRegulations/Health/</a>
Good Hygiene Etiquette		
	Provide annual in-service training to staff on proper hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette.	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resp-hygiene.htm">cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resp-hygiene.htm</a>
	Post signage in the facility about proper respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/providers/index.html">cdc.gov/handhygiene/providers/index.html</a> <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/covercough.htm">cdc.gov/flu/protect/covercough.htm</a>
Exclusion and Visitation		
  	Exclude staff with ILI or who test positive for influenza from work until 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medicines.	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/healthcaresettings.htm">cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/healthcaresettings.htm</a>
	Post signage to discourage ill visitors or require the use of a face mask while visiting.	
	Develop a tracking system to monitor staff absences.	
Infection Control		
	Provide annual in-service training on standard and droplet precaution procedures to all staff.	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/healthcaresettings.htm">cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/healthcaresettings.htm</a>
	Implement standard precautions when providing care to residents, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, gowns, and masks, as dictated by patient-care activities.	
Environmental Cleaning		
	Follow your facility's policies for cleaning and disinfecting.	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5210a1.htm">cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5210a1.htm</a>

	Checklist for Control Measures During Influenza Season in Long Term Care Facilities	Resources
<b>Antiviral Treatment and Chemoprophylaxis</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Initiate antiviral <b>treatment</b> for all suspected and confirmed cases of influenza. Treatment should not wait for laboratory confirmation of influenza. Collect NP swab prior to treatment. Recommended dosage and duration for oral Oseltamivir is 75 mg twice daily for five days.	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm">cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Initiate antiviral <b>chemoprophylaxis</b> for ALL residents in facility. Priority should be given to residents in affected areas. Recommended dosage and duration for oral Oseltamivir is 75 mg once daily for a minimum of two weeks and continuing for one week after date of last reported case. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When at least two patients are ill within 72 hours of each other and at least one resident has laboratory-confirmed influenza, the facility should promptly initiate antiviral chemoprophylaxis.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm">cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Offer antiviral chemoprophylaxis to staff regardless of their vaccination status.	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm">cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Notify the regional health department if a resident or staff develops influenza during or after antiviral chemoprophylaxis therapy to initiate antiviral resistance testing, if available.	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm">cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce contact between ill persons taking antiviral drugs for treatment and other persons.	
<b>Infection Control using Standard and Droplet Precautions</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure adherence to standard precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perform hand hygiene frequently and after each patient encounter.</li> <li>Ensure supplies for hand hygiene are available.</li> <li>Wear gloves for any contact with potentially infectious material.</li> <li>Wear gowns for any patient-care activity when contact with blood, body fluids, secretions (including respiratory), or excretions is anticipated.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm">cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm</a>  <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/covercough.htm">cdc.gov/flu/protect/covercough.htm</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Change gloves and gowns after each patient encounter. Dedicate specific staff to care for ill residents in their rooms. If dedicating staff is not possible, staff should provide care for well residents before providing care for ill residents. Implement droplet precautions for ill residents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isolate ill residents to their rooms. If not possible, house sick residents together.</li> <li>Don a facemask when entering the room of a patient with suspected or confirmed influenza.</li> <li>Place a facemask on residents who are under droplet precautions if they must leave their room.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/healthcaresettings.htm">cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/healthcaresettings.htm</a>  <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphygiene.htm">cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphygiene.htm</a>  <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/healthcaresettings.htm">cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/healthcaresettings.htm</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Continue to implement droplet precautions for seven days after illness onset, until 24 hours after the end of fever and respiratory symptoms, or for the duration of antiviral therapy, whichever is longer.	

	Checklist for Control Measures During Influenza Season in Long Term Care Facilities	Resources
Additional Control Measures		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Discontinue group activities. Provide meals to residents in their rooms.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Accept current ill residents returning from influenza-associated hospital admissions, as staffing capacity and bed availability allow. Adhere to droplet precaution practices, as indicated.	<a href="https://cdc.gov/flu/protect/covercough.htm">cdc.gov/flu/protect/covercough.htm</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Avoid accepting new admissions to affected units/wings. If new admissions cannot be deferred, administer antiviral chemoprophylaxis upon entry.	<a href="https://cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/healthcaresettings.htm">cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/healthcaresettings.htm</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Current residents hospitalized for other reasons should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for readmission.	<a href="http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/InfectiousDiseases/Flu/FluData/">www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/InfectiousDiseases/Flu/FluData/</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communicate information about patients with suspected, probable, or confirmed influenza to appropriate personnel before transferring them to other facilities.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure exclusion of staff with ILI or who test positive for influenza from work until 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medicines.	<a href="https://cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm">cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enhance environmental cleaning procedures. Clean and disinfect on a frequent basis areas close to residents (i.e., beds rails, tables, door knobs, and area around toilet) and other high-touch areas throughout the facility.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Instruct visitors to use hand hygiene and wear facemasks (when indicated) until the outbreak is over. Provide hand sanitizers, tissues, face masks, and no-touch trash bin at entrances.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inform family members and other visitors about their role in the transmission of flu to patients and encourage them to get vaccinated.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restrict visitations from children during heightened times of influenza activity in the local community.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Test residents with respiratory symptoms for influenza during an outbreak and/or during influenza season.	